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Governor Dix and the Direct Primary Legislation.

In his latest message to the Legislature urging an amendment to the pending direct primary bill Governor DIX makes two specific requests. He asks that the bill be changed to provide for the direct election of members of party committees, and for an official ballot. In this same document he indicates his willingness to omit from the scheme of direct nominations the candidates for offices filled at State conventions and voted for by the whole State.

If the Legislature is to pass any direct primary legislation the Governor's recommendations are reasonable enough, but whom will they satisfy? Not the direct primary champions. Whatever happens they will charge the Democratic party with falsity to the Rochester platform, if a single exception is made to a general statewide from Governor to poundkeeper direct nominations system. The fashion in which certain of the direct primary organs turned upon Governor HUGHES when he made his famous "compromise" a year ago should serve as a sufficient example to the present Executive.

Any measure short of the complete direct nominations will receive and merit the denunciation of the direct nomination faction. With perfect justice they will assert that an effort has been made to deceive by an apparent concession which covers a real denial of direct nominations. As far as any political advantage is concerned, the Democrats will be as remote from it as ever if they undertake to dispose of the question by fraud instead of contenting themselves with a simple refusal.

All direct nomination bills in the present Legislature will be overwhelmingly defeated if the members are permitted to vote as they feel. Only the heroic intervention of the Hon. CHARLES F. MURPHY himself can compel the passage of any kind of direct primary, and the variety to which Mr. MURPHY is apparently lending his urbane countenance is not only a ridiculous and contemptible sham, but is also the sort of subterfuge that will injure all the politicians who support it.

The Republican Legislature last year stood up under no small pressure and buried the Hughes direct nomination bills. It did this openly and squarely, and the votes of a large majority of the Republican members of the present Legislature will be cast against any direct primary proposal. Equal honesty on the part of the members of the present majority would leave the direct nomination contingent in an insignificant and unattractive minority. Stupid dishonesty, on the contrary, might easily add the now hopeless direct nomination cause.

The thing for the Democrats at Albany to do is to defeat all direct primary measures, uniting with the Republican members who share their convictions, and thus dispose of the humbug permanently. The whole agitation collapsed last year when Governor HUGHES dropped it. Flat then, it has become even flatter since. The way to revive it is for its opponents to establish the conviction in the popular mind that they are so terrified at its shadow that they feel compelled to resort to every sort of cheap trick and foolish device to escape its assumed menace.

Public Taste in Plays.

The theatre manager from Australia who reported that its theatrical taste was that of England, the mother country of a majority of its citizens, describes a different state of feeling from that which existed when JOSEPH JEFFERSON went there. He carried with him in addition to the usual repertoire of old comedies some novelties that had recently been successful on the New York stage. One was "Our American Cousin," in which JEFFERSON had unsuccessfully attempted to be a star, although that drama became inseparably connected afterward with the fame of the elder SOTHERS; another was "Rip Van Winkle," of which there had been three versions before JEFFERSON made it his own. There were other plays of American origin, and it was in these that JEFFERSON acted for four years and made money enough in Australia to enable him to descend on London and gather his laurels there.

When it happened, as it did in Sydney, that the old comedies delighted the public more than the new American plays, JEFFERSON considered the fact sufficiently unusual to record in his memoirs. One British drama then practically new was "The Ticket of Leave Man," which JEFFERSON brought to some of the convict settlements of New South Wales for the first time. These audiences, which sympathized

so deeply with the sorrows of the hero, had first learned them from personal experience.

The national character of Australia has become more strongly outlined since Jefferson acted there, and entertainments of British origin may now be more popular than any others; yet it is probably true that an actor of the same genius could interest the Australians in American plays. It is within the power of a player so distinguished in his art as JEFFERSON to make the public accept him whatever his medium of appearance. Indeed, it is one test of genius in such a profession. Only such uncommon powers can be accepted the world over in their own means of expression, whatever that may be.

So if we had to-day a Joseph Jefferson to send to Australia he would probably be heard with enthusiasm whether his plays were of English themes or not.

The French Budget.

It takes considerable figuring to arrive at the deficit on the French budget of 1910, but M. CHÉRON, for the budget commission, placed a report before the Chamber of Deputies recently showing an actual net shortage of 125,000,000 francs as between revenues and expenditures. Belated collections, he hoped, might reduce the figure to about 70,000,000 francs.

To arrive at this result he started from a surplus. The receipts for the year had actually exceeded the estimates by 188,000,000 francs and over. But there were also supplementary credits amounting to 154,000,000 francs, so after all the net excess of receipts was only 34,000,000 francs.

But against this was the fact that when the budget was passed in 1909 it was necessary to force a balance on it by authorizing short time loans to the tune of 159,000,000 francs. Deducting the net surplus receipts of 34,000,000 francs from these loans the deficit of 125,000,000 francs is apparent.

This year's budget was scandalously delayed, and in the long run it was jammed through both houses with such haste and amid such turmoil that in the end nobody knew exactly what its provisions were, and it remains for the officials of the Finance Department to ascertain and reveal what it does or does not do in detail. The SUN's Paris correspondent described the all night session of the Senate at which it was passed with a rush as a process of voting away millions of francs between bottles of iced beer. When the bill got back to the Chamber for review an effort was made to railroad it to a final vote, but M. JAUURES and his following did their best in the way of obstruction, dragging in the Moroccan imbroglio, the dismissed railroad strikers, and every other controversial subject imaginable. Perhaps it may be said that only the hot wave under which all Paris wilted last week and the utter fatigue of the Deputies enabled the Ministry to get the bill through at all. The moment the vote was taken the session was closed with a bang, and the "Cailiaux Ministry" was left safe if not exactly sound to carry on the Government until September at least, and unravel the difficulties that confront it as well as it can.

The delay of the budget was due to several causes. One, of course, was the double change of Ministry during its progress, which impeded all legislation. A second was the honest effort of the Legislature, especially the Senate, to make ends meet by using the pruning hook on the appropriations. A third was the effort of the Finance Ministers, notably M. CAILLAUX during his incumbency under Premier MONIS, to bridge the financial chasm by sundry taxation experiments. M. CAILLAUX was accused, in fact, by one Paris newspaper of attempting to enact in detail his notorious income tax bill as a part of the budget, seeing that there was no prospect of its being voted as a whole for months if not for years to come.

As an instance of the devices adopted by M. CAILLAUX to make his estimates balance in the finance bill or budget just adopted, the imposition of a tax of 4 per cent. on the fee of one-half per cent. which banks and credit associations charge their clients for taking care of their deposits, as do State banks in New York, may be mentioned. The item is only good for a million and a half of francs or thereabout, and the newspapers treated the proposed impost as mischievous in the last degree.

The opening of banking agencies all over France has had the effect of bringing out the famous "old stockings" of the thirty poor, small hoards which when aggregated have become an important addition to the working capital of the nation. The half of one per cent. charged by the banks, it is said, barely represents the cost of carrying the deposits, bookkeeping, stationery and the like, and the effect of the new impost if it is exacted will be to discourage the banks from carrying small accounts, so that large sums of money will go into hiding again.

The gain to the treasury, it was shown, would be in no way comparable to the injury to the financial prospects of the country at large. The Senate threw out the item. It is not believed that the Chamber passed its struggle to get the budget passed to restore it. It is, however, one of the forms of squeezing capital to the utmost that France will have to fight over or submit to should M. CAILLAUX remain a constructive power in her politics.

The Modern Western Pathfinder. Never before has the West had so many large road projects and undertaken them so merrily. The pathfinder of old told through virgin forests and across uninhabitable plains in perils from flood, wild beasts and hostile Indians. His successor, the road builder of to-day, is welcomed at the crossroads with feast and speech.

Iowa wanted a cross-State highway. The State turned out as if to a picnic, and in one day the road "good enough to run an automobile on from the Mississippi to the Missouri" was finished. Minnesota now has \$250,000 available for roads, and if the road builders' plans prevail this "can be increased to \$1,000,000 a year." Kentucky enthusiasts held a picnic last week and "listened to spellbinders who awakened new interest in a memorial boulevard from Louisville to Nashville." Kansas is turning the old Santa Fe trail into an automobile road from Kansas City to the Colorado line.

Texas and Missouri have ambitious plans: Missouri to build an east to west highway, and Texas a road from the Red River to the Gulf. A party of Texas officials set out last week to establish the line of their new roadway. Towns for miles on either side of the route struggled to make a favorable impression, and as a result of the rivalry the party got "the most enthusiastic reception that any touring party ever received." In Missouri there are three competing routes. Governor HADLEY has taken personal charge of the road locating expedition which starts next Monday. The inspectors will travel in two divisions and it will take seven-ton automobiles to accommodate them. Says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat:

"Of course it can go without the saying that ambitious towns along all the routes, anxious to favorably impress all of the inspectors, and particularly the official ones among them, will make merry and set out feasts."

Only one official manifesto has been issued. Towns along the route will be expected to have on hand "a supply of gasoline and other incidentals necessary to the happiness of the inspection party." Gasoline was apparently the only necessity regarding which a warning was issued; everything else was left to the hospitable Missouri communities. The way of the modern pathfinder in the West seems to be smooth, his progress one grand sweet song of welcome.

Josephus of Blowing Rock. A never enough to be thanked friend in Blowing Rock, N. C., sends us a post card picture, reproduced on this page, of the birthplace of JOSEPHUS DANIELS, the poet-statesman-editor-boss of Raleigh. The brass memorial tablet given in a burst of pious emotion by the North Carolina editors was erected the week before last and does not appear in the cut. Its site is the projection or knob on the left of the upper frowning peak, Mount Josephus. For, like Parnassus, Blowing Rock is bifurcated. The lower and truncated promontory is Mount Daniels. Grand, gloomy and peculiar, shrouded in darkness from piedmont to summit, eternal sunshine, weather permitting, rests upon the head of these sacred eminences. Fit platform for poetic fits, rude nurse of a poetic child.

Upon his beetling crag, hanging fearlessly and lovingly over the void as he has since hung over BYRAN and WOODROW WILSON, JOSEPHUS DANIELS at the age of 16 (1878), composed the strange, the mighty and the lovely "Hymn to Blowing Rock":

Ye breathless heights! Ye plumbless chasms! The rapid soul trembles into space. Awe by your beauty. On the winds Of time and life you spread consoling cataclysms.

Returning in his splendid prime to his native cliffs, there he produced these strong and rocky lines on "The Palladium of Our Liberties," dedicated to Dr. WOODROW WILSON:

"The people's wrongs, 'till end 'em. The people's rights, defend 'em. Each patriot's wish is for the initiative and referendum!"

The famous ganderbo tree looms over a copse of pokeweed bushes a few rods to the left of Mount Josephus. Most unwisely and petulantly Mr. DANIELS has had it grubbed up since he transferred his affections from Nebraska to New Jersey. He cannot grub up the hearts of millions his sweetest, his noblest song:

The pokeweed juice it stains my cheek. With a deeper than blood red hue, I bathe my burning face in the creek. Under the ganderbo, Under the ganderbo, I dream, sweet love of you.

For my soul is crying for Old BILLY BYRAN. Under the ganderbo!

We cannot look without emotion on yon twin peak, a Mecca of the mind.

Patching the Palladium. The Tribune proposes to amend the "referendum system" by legislation that "would require petitions for a referendum to be made only by those who intend to cast affirmative votes, and are therefore properly interested in having the plan brought before the people."

We move an amendment to the amendment: Whenever a referendum is had, only affirmative votes shall be counted.

The Senate had an unaccountable reactionary relapse Monday. Make candidates for Senator and Representative in Congress account for money spent at primary elections! This is an insult to the plain people and loathsome to many austere reformers.

There is nothing worse for a man or woman than the possession of too much money.—Emerson.

Confession of the weary WILLIAM A. WHITE, a benefactor of great wealth.

Evidently the Hon. HOKESMITH will have to be divided.

New Zealand's Sulphur Island. From the London Globe.

One of the most extraordinary islands in the world lies in the Bay of Plenty, New Zealand. It is called "Sulphur Island" because of the sulphur mixed with gypsum and a few other minerals. Over the island, which is about three miles in circumference, and rises between 800 and 900 feet above the sea, there continually flows an immense cloud of vapor attaining an elevation of 10,000 feet. In the centre is a boiling lake of acid charged water, covering fifty acres, and surrounded with blow holes from which steam and sulphurous fumes are emitted with great force and noise. With care a boat can be navigated on the lake. The sulphur from White Island is very pure, but little effort has yet been made to procure it systematically.

Artificial Graphite. From the Youth's Companion.

All forms of carbon, according to Professor J. A. Fleming, are converted into graphite if the temperature is high enough. He illustrates this by the fact that the tip of an electric arc is carbon, but mark papers after it has been used in a lamp, but not before. Referring to the turning of graphite into carbon in the Acheson process, he says: "The graphite is heated in a crucible at Niagara graphite is thus manufactured to the amount of 2,000 tons annually. This becomes a matter of much importance in view of the gradual exhaustion of the known deposits of natural blumberg."

REVISION OF SCHEDULE K?

WASHINGTON, July 10.—Many and perhaps most of the shrewdest political observers in Washington are now convinced that the bill reducing the rates on wool and woollens will pass the Senate before the adjournment of Congress. On July 14 a unanimous consent was given to an agreement to vote on H. R. 11019 "without further debate." That is the House bill fixing a rate of 20 per cent. ad valorem "on wool of the sheep, hair of the camel, goat, alpaca and other like animals, and on all wools and hair on the skin of such animals"; of 20 per cent. ad valorem on noils, waste, shoddis and other forms of wool; of 25 per cent. on tops and on wool in other advanced stages; of 30 per cent. on yarns made wholly or in part of wool; of 40 per cent. on cloths, knit fabrics and other specified forms of woollens; of 50 per cent. on blankets and on flannels below a specified quality; of 45 per cent. on women's and children's dress goods and other materials included in the same class; and of rates varying from 25 to 50 per cent. on carpets of different classes and qualities.

That this bill in the form in which it passed the House will be approved by the Senate now seems highly improbable. Some Senators are strongly opposed to any reduction whatever; others regard the House bill as prepared too much for political and too little for economic purposes, and therefore unwise if not actually dangerous to the interests of many, and some regard the cut made by the House as entirely too deep. In the latter case stands the doubtful Mr. La Follette, who has a bill of his own, too elaborate for analysis here, but fixing rates much below the present level and on the whole about 50 per cent. above the rates of H. R. 11019.

Some lookers-on believe that the House will not insist so stubbornly on an acceptance by the Senate of the bill, which it gave its approval. It is thought that in view of all that has been said regarding the necessity for a reduction of Schedule K and of all that has been urged regarding the multitude of blessings said to be the certain result of such reduction, the Senate will be practically compelled to vote for a considerable cut in the present rates, and that a compromise can be reached on figures below those to which the Senate will at first be willing to go and above those fixed by the House bill.

That method of rate fixing is obviously unscientific and unsound. It ignores facts and conditions and reaches a conclusion only along the line of concessions grudgingly made and in all probability necessary to no end other than the same. While the method of reaching a conclusion is not at all commendable, the results will probably be as satisfactory as those that might be reached by more intelligent and scientific methods. The industries affected must and will adjust themselves to any change that may be made by any method. Many wool growers declare positively that if deprived of their present protection of 11 cents a pound on wool in the grease they must go out of the business. The fact is that all such talk is nonsense. The wool grower does not get 11 cents a pound more than he would if wool were on the free list. It is fairly clear that under all ordinary conditions his protection amounts in fact to considerably less than his schedule rate, and probably to little if any more than would be afforded by the House bill recently passed.

Nor is there proof or even acceptable evidence that the woolen manufacturers are beneficiaries under the tariff to anything like the percentage indicated by the schedule as it now stands. There is every reason to believe that a material reduction can be made in the present rates without material change in existing conditions. It is more than probable that a reduction in rates will cause some market disturbance. Many wool growers and very likely some woolen manufacturers will be frightened and will curtail and perhaps abandon their enterprises. Such action would be extremely foolish. There is no good reason to believe that a considerable cut in the rate on wool would make wool growing unprofitable. Nor is there good reason for belief that a considerable cut in the rate on woolen cloth, mixed goods, carpets and other articles made wholly or in part of wool will force American manufacturers out of business. Nor in the event of reduction need a public that has accepted as statements of fact the assertions made by special interests or by politicians for their political effect look for material reduction in the market price of woolen clothing and other articles made wholly or in part of wool. There is not even reason to believe that any rates likely to find support in both houses of Congress could change appreciably for the better the quality of the goods offered in the market. To the confirmed believer in the inequities of Schedule K and in the commercial offences committed under it such statements as these are heresies to be rejected and fought, but they are the fruits of careful inquiry and investigation, of a study of the question, and not of a jump at conclusions.

The action of the Senate cannot, of course, be predicted with absolute certainty, but the passage of some bill proposing reduction in Schedule K is now confidently to be expected, and it is probable that an agreement will be reached by the Senate and the House. What the President may do with such a measure is quite another matter.

General Lee and a Federal Hat. To the EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The letter of a Baltimore "Confederate" printed in THE SUN of July 10 reminds me of an incident, so far as I am aware never published, but pleasant now to remember.

The General Lee, General Lee, and the eyewitness of the incident, but had the story from a reliable witness, a friend and comrade, since deceased, who was on May 2, 1864, a Major in command of a battalion in the battle of the Wilderness. Line through a thicket he was captured and later with several other Federal officers was standing by the roadside under guard in the Confederate rear. In a few moments General Lee at the head of the Confederate column entered the thicket opposite the little squad of prisoners. He was apparently listening to the musketry still rattling in the woods. After a little he turned his head toward the group of prisoners by his side and said to one of them: "What do you think of the war?" The latter replied: "One of your men, sir, took to me when I was captured."

Lee turned immediately to one of his staff and directed him to recover the hat if possible and return it, and then rode on. The officer questioned the Captain, ascertaining what troops had captured him, and a little later brought back the hat.

AN EX-FEDERAL OFFICER.

WASHINGTON, July 10.

An Alpine Garden. From the London Globe.

The highest garden in the world is said to be the Alpine Garden of Botany, which was laid out by the late Captain of the former regiment by the name of Little St. Bernard. It is situated at an elevation of 2,300 meters, or 7,530 feet. Here are to be found almost all species of mountain flowers, not only those common in the Alps, but also the rarest and most beautiful. The garden, however, was not founded until 1868, but it was not until 1903 that the project became effective. In the latter year the commune of Thullie gave him the land.

A Born Expressman. To the EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Harry Swift, Eagle Express between Irvington and Newark, has a bit of a bundle for the townsmen. Let him let it go.

OKLAHOMA A Great Landlord. Oklahoma City correspondence of the Kansas City Journal.

The immense proportions of the land business being transacted by the State of Oklahoma are shown by figures recently compiled by John R. Williams, secretary of the State School Land Department. Although in less than two years the State has sold 362,528 acres of land it still has a land on a large scale, as 2,068,367 acres are held under lease, and in addition 1,000,000 acres are used for grazing purposes and not held under regular lease contracts.

Most of this land was inherited by the State from Oklahoma Territory, Congress having set aside a part of the lands in each township for school purposes upon the admission of original Oklahoma. The 1888 appropriation showed the State had at that time to have an average value of \$9.98 an acre.

JIM JONES IN THE SENATE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: W. H. Heyburn of Idaho is perhaps not a comfortable person at all times, but omitting mention of the late Confederate war and his various pronouncements into this generation he is not so bad. Usually he is tractable enough, though always positive if not dogmatic, and if you can lead him carefully around the Jefferson Davis episode he won't shy at ordinary things; at least not very violently.

Just why the Hon. John Sharp Williams of Mississippi wanted to bemuddle the question of rewarding a faithful servant of the United States Senate by parading his services fifty years ago to the late Jefferson Davis, one time President of the Southern Confederacy, it would be difficult to say. The question was that of providing in his helpless old age for a man who had done long and loyal work for the Senate. It was a case which appealed to every Senator and needed no special pleading.

But Mr. Williams found an opportunity to introduce his specialty. He launched a eulogy of the antebellum darky, his fidelity to "old master," his touching affection for the ancient environment and institutions, and in effect asked his colleagues to pension Jim Jones not on the score of his services to the Senate so much as because of his pathetic devotion to Jefferson Davis half a century ago.

One can hardly wonder that the Hon. W. B. Heyburn, always looking for a provocation and forever subject to peculiar frenzy at the merest mention of the rebel flag, at once shook off the trammels of a temporary composure and resumed his original and favorite character.

It seems preposterous that the question of rewarding a veteran Senate employee should have been transferred to the tragic arena of the civil war and all the acrimony and outcries of that abortive time revived merely because of the Hon. John Sharp Williams' fervent and a certain fermentation of the Senate to relieve his system. But so it was.

It is not possible in connection with this tempest totem, at least, to lay much blame on Mr. Heyburn. He is well known as the victim of a hallucination, warranted to explode upon a given impact, and when Mr. Williams wantonly and impudently applied the spark he went off automatically with a loud report. Whether Mr. Williams hoped to aid Jim Jones by reviving a chapter in his life which the United States Senate could not possibly consider in that connection, whatever may have been the feeling of the individual Senator, or whether he intended to accuse Jones of his mischievous fondness for a splurge of cheap epigrams, no one will ever surely know. But certainly he introduced discord into what had been a harmonious confabulation, and if he had been a more considerable man might easily have injured a poor old disabled and afflicted negro who had never done him any harm.

There can be no question that Mr. Williams, if he had succeeded in basing Jim Jones's claims to recognition by the Senate upon his fidelity to the late Jefferson Davis, would have succeeded also in eliminating the old man's pension. Fortunately for common sense and kindly feeling Mr. Williams failed. His own absurdity and the accompanying explosion of Mr. Heyburn have both passed off innocuously.

WASHINGTON, July 10.

Suffrage and Poetry.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The wife of a literary man, it is said, once undertook to brood a brood of chickens. They turned out badly. She told a neighboring farmer's wife that they seemed to be doing all right at first, but in the course of a few days they all died in the coop.

"What did you feed them?" said the farmer's wife.

"Feed them!" exclaimed the author's helpmate. "I didn't feed them; I thought a healthy young pullet like that ought to have milk enough for her chicks."

This suggests the reasoning of Flora Hazard and Julia Waterman, who lay the blame all the while on the politicians and business world upon women, and the ground that men would never do wrong if their mothers had brought them up right. They assume that a mother's unassisted influence is adequate to counteract and overcome all the evil and temptation which a corrupt environment can surround her children. Thousands of mothers have done their very best and yet have seen their efforts fail.

A woman may keep her own house spotless clean, but if a bad city government leaves the streets foul and the school unsanitary her children may perish of disease for which the city and not the mother is to blame. She may do her utmost in her own home to teach them virtue, but if the city is so corrupt that gambling houses and evil resorts protected by high officials and her exhortations may fall before the force of bad company and bad example.

This was the main argument for woman suffrage advanced by a famous and successful lecturer, the wife of Governor Wallace of Indiana, from whom Gen. Lawrence said that he drew the portrait of the mother in his novel "Ben-Hur." After bringing up a large family Mrs. Wallace in her later years became a woman suffrage lecturer. She described the mother's teaching her child that he must be upright and honorable if he wished to be respected. Mrs. Wallace continued:

"That boy goes out from his mother, and the first thing he meets with neutralizes and gives the lie to all his mother's teaching. He says to himself: 'The mother says I must be upright and honorable in high places violating all those teachings, and he begins to conclude that his mother does not know much about it. From that moment that boy drops his mother's teaching, and though she still must have a hold on him in any other way. There is where you wrong us, gentlemen, and cripple us in training men who will make the state a laughing stock. To do successfully the work of the world which is given to us we must have a voice in making the conditions that surround us while we do that work.'

As Mrs. James Lees Laidlaw has said, women must not only prepare the children for the world, they must also help to prepare the world for the children. Mothers cannot, times succeed in spite of all drawbacks, but they do their work under an undue handicap so long as they are not allowed to vote in shaping the environment that surrounds their children. LUCY RUSSELL BLACKWELL.

CHILMARK, Mass., July 17.

OKLAHOMA A Great Landlord. Oklahoma City correspondence of the Kansas City Journal.

The immense proportions of the land business being transacted by the State of Oklahoma are shown by figures recently compiled by John R. Williams, secretary of the State School Land Department. Although in less than two years the State has sold 362,528 acres of land it still has a land on a large scale, as 2,068,367 acres are held under lease, and in addition 1,000,000 acres are used for grazing purposes and not held under regular lease contracts.

A SHRINE OF POESY.

Blowing Rock, the Birthplace of Josephus Daniels.



TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: As a son of the man who introduced "Uncle Tom's Cabin" to England will you permit me to tell his story of that event, as that reprinted in Saturday's issue of THE SUN from London Truth is incorrect in several particulars?

In the first place no advance copy of the work was submitted to any London publisher, but Mr. David Rogers received an ordinary copy of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" from a young man in Putnam's New York house, accompanied by a letter saying that the book was selling rapidly in the States and suggesting that Mr. Rogers should reprint it and send him a trifle for his pains. Mr. Rogers, however, not caring to embark in cheap reprints of American authors, offered the work to my father for his series of "Readable Books."

The American edition of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" being in two stout volumes he hesitated to run the risk of issuing the work at a shilling, and while he was considering what to do with it he received a visit from Messrs. Salisbury and Clarke, and suggested that they join him in reprinting the work. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" it was agreed to produce an edition of the book in shares, each of them being responsible for one-third of the cost.

My father changed Mrs. Stowe's second title, "Life Among the Lowly," to "Nursery Life in the Slave States of America," and a writer then little known but who is now widely appreciated both as journalist and essayist wrote a preface to the work for the modest sum of two guineas. The book was printed in two crown octavo sizes, and the price was half a crown.

Although well advertised, the volume, of which 2,500 copies had been printed, proved a failure, but a rather singular circumstance contributed to its eventual success. In a readable book by Bentley, Henry Vizetelly had reprinted Curtis's "Nile Notes," much to the annoyance of Richard Bentley, who had a half guinea being advertised with both his own and Bentley's name. Mr. Bentley, in retaliation against him, announced a shilling edition of the book. With the view of checkmating him my father had a cover printed with "Price one shilling" on it and got Clarke to do up a copy of their edition in a cheap octavo, and to be as near to a foolscap octavo as could be managed. This volume he sent to Mr. Bentley with his compliments and a notification that the accompanying shilling edition of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was on the eve of publication. This indeed first edition he sold his hand and as there was scarcely any sale for the book at half a crown in cloth it was determined to work off the remaining sheets in paper boards at a shilling.

Shortly after this had been decided upon my father went abroad with the Fodor and was absent about three or three months. On his return he found that "Uncle Tom's Cabin" had been and still was the book which everybody was reading and talking about. After a reasonable delay he applied to Clarke for an account of the sales, which he offered him to Salisbury and O. Beeton, who had joined Clarke and Salisbury in partnership. These gentlemen laughed at the idea of giving an account, told him that during his absence abroad they had paid his clerk for the work, and that he was in consequence of his absence and had also repaid to him the five pounds which had been forwarded to Putnam's young man and that they declined to recognize him any further in the matter.

My father made short work of this repudiation. He gave them a few lines to decide what they would do, and notified them that if they did not make a satisfactory proposal by noon of the next day he would at once file a bill in Chancery for an account. At 11 o'clock the following morning Mr. S. O. Beeton came to see him and offered him £200, provided the account should be valued, but my father replied that the extremest sum he ever hoped to make out of his share of the "Uncle Tom's Cabin" reprint was £500, and he was determined not to accept a penny less. This offer they agreed to, and received the acceptance of Clarke, Salisbury and Beeton for the sum in question, and his connection with "Uncle Tom's Cabin" thereupon ceased.

Beeton, greatly dreading that the firm in which he became partner might be taken over by some enterprising London publisher with respect to Mrs. Stowe's next book, hastened to America and offered that lady electrotypes from the engravings of an English illustrated edition of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" which he had secured. This offer was declined for early republication in the United States, hoping by this economical sop to secure the early sheets of her new volume. The lady and her husband, however, hinted that a money payment on account of the large profit which had been made out of the English reprint of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" would be better appreciated. Finally Beeton gave Mrs. Stowe the bills of the firm for a few hundred pounds and secured in return the promise of the early sheets of the "Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin." With a daring conclusion that staggered most sober minded people, Clarke, Beeton and Salisbury printed a first edition of 50,000 copies, the bulk of which eventually went to the trunkmakers, and the firm was FRANK H. VIZETELLY.

NEW YORK, July 10.

Men of Science, Tell Us Why!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: On all umbrellas there is a sort of band designed to make the umbrella seem to be a part of the man, and it is right and desirable, but when the rains descend and the floods come and beat upon that band, and it is open, then the band becomes a damping appendage, twist one never so wondrously, always hang in front?

Can it be the reverse of the case of the pestered chihuahua and his queue, who is "patted and turned and turned, but still it hangs behind him?"

NEW YORK, July 10.